

## Sullivan County financial woes blamed on Dems

### To the Editor:

In less than two years, county finances have gone from balanced, to millions in the red! The nursing home has gone from flourishing and self-supporting to broke and sinking fast.

And, the best that John Cloutier, Larry Converse, Tom Donovan, Jeff Barrette, and the rest of the merry band majority can offer to blame for this is anyone but themselves.

Led by the arrogance of Rep. Franklin, all this group can do is scramble to protect their party at all cost. This is the same group that stormed the Claremont City Council every chance they could to preach concern for the taxpayers of Claremont? Or were those just photo-ops?

This group has bankrupted the county and all but destroyed the functionality and more importantly the credibility of the county nursing home in less than two years of their so called "qualified" management. That's like calling the captain of the Titanic a qualified skipper! It's infuriating to watch them destroy our county and somehow avoid any blame whatsoever.

This current crisis did not happen by some unexplained collection of circumstances. They created it! The first thing they did was fire Genesis. Genesis, the company whose sin was restoring the county from the mess that was created the last time this delegation tried to micro-manage it. It happened when they decided they were somehow capable and qualified to run a county and more importantly a nursing home. What are their qualifications? They are part-time politicians and full-time lobbyists.

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The facts are clear. While Ed Gil de Rubio was running the county and Genesis was running the nursing home, county taxes were stable, the budget was balanced, nursing home beds were full, staff morale was high, turnover was low, and quality care was better than it had been in years. Now, we are faced with a 32 percent tax increase. The nursing home is crumbling under the weight of the negative and financial cloud created by Franklin, Barrett, and company, beds are empty, staff is leaving, morale is at an all time low and quality of care is suffering greatly.

Why? Because this group of egotistical cronies refuses to admit they made a very big mistake. These are the people

that care about our senior citizens and our taxpayers? Clearly, they are more concerned with staying in Concord to support their party agenda than helping the local taxpayers or our seniors. Since the day they took office, they have not done one thing to lower our tax burden, but they sure do everything that can to help their party.

There is no doubt; they are the cause, not the solution. So, Rep. Franklin, the next time you take your loyal servants into the hall for another private meeting to give them their marching orders, do us all a favor, don't come back.

**Chris Irish**  
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